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# Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/P:FJSEIDNER/VRM
APPROVED BY EUR/P:FJSEIDNER
S/PRS - R. FUNSETH
C - W. SHINN
EUR/EE- MR. ANDREWS
S/S-O:DLMACK
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, YO

SUBJECT: MILITARY AID TO YUGOSLAVIA

FOLLOWING CLEARED GUIDANCE MAY BE DRAWN UPON BY EMBASSY AS NECESSARY IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC PRESS INQUIRY.

QUOTE

Q: WHAT IS THE SITUATION ON U.S. ARMS ASSISTANCE TO YUGOSLAVIA? HAS THE UNITED STATES GIVEN ASSURANCES TO YUGOSLAVIA THAT IT WILL RESUME ARMS SALES AFTER A 15-YEAR HALT?

A: THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS BEEN PREPARED TO CONSIDER YUGOSLAV REQUESTS TO PURCHASE MILITARY EQUIP-MENT FROM THE UNITED STATES. WE DID, IN FACT, PROVIDE
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YUGOSLAVIA WITH ABOUT 700 MILLION DOLLARS IN GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN THE 1950'S. INCLUDED WERE JET

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FIGHTERS, ARTILLERY, TANKS, AND OTHER COMBAT VEHICLES. SINCE 1961, WHEN THE YUGOSLAVS ALLOWED THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT TO EXPIRE, YUGOSLAVIA HAS PURCHASED AN AVERAGE OF ABOUT 200 THOUSAND DOLLARS WORTH OF U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT ANNUALLY UNDER FOREIGN MILITARY SALES

PROCEDURES, AND ABOUT 250 THOUSAND DOLLARS PER YEAR ON A PURELY COMMERCIAL BASIS. THIS HAS INCLUDED MOSTLY RE-PLACEMENT PARTS FOR U.S. EQUIPMENT PROVIDED EARLIER.

VARIOUS NEW YUGOSLAV REQUESTS FOR OUR POSITION REGARDING SALE OF CERTAIN EQUIPMENT HAVE BEEN AND ARE NOW UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE INFORMED THE YUGOSLAVS THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO SELL A NUMBER OF MILITARY ITEMS, INCLUDING SOME HELICOPTERS, NAVIGATIONAL EQUIPMENT, AND RADAR SYSTEMS.

Q: IS THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT DRAGGING ITS FEET ON THE YUGOSLAV REQUESTS?

A: NO. THERE ARE NO YUGOSLAV REQUESTS STALLED IN THE PENTAGON OR ANYWHERE ELSE. ALL REQUESTS HAVE BEEN OR ARE BEING ACTIVELY CONSIDERED.

Q: WHAT SPECIFICALLY DO THE YUGOSLAVS WISH TO PURCHASE? DOES THE MATERIAL INCLUDE SOPHISTICATED ANTI-TANK WEAPONS SUCH AS THE TOW MISSILE? WHAT ARE THE AMOUNTS OF MONEY INVOLVED?

A: I DO NOT HAVE THE DETAILS OF WHAT THE YUGOSLAVS WANT TO PURCHASE, BUT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE TOW ANTI-TANK WEAPON HAS BEEN DISCUSSED. THIS MATTER IS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION. I CANNOT PROVIDE ANY DOLLAR FIGURE FOR SALES SINCE THE YUGOSLAVS HAVE NOT INDICATED IN WHAT QUANTITIES THEY WANT TO PURCHASE THE EQUIPMENT THEY ARE INTERESTED IN.

Q: WHAT WOULD BE THE OBJECTIVE OF SELLING MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO YUGOSLAVIA? IS IT DESIGNED TO HEAD OFF A
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POSSIBLE ATTACK FROM THE SOVIET UNION IN CASE OF TITO'S DEATH? ARE WE TRYING TO CURRY FAVOR WITH THE YUGOSLAV MILITARY?

A: WE ARE PREPARED TO SELL MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO YUGO-SLAVIA NOW, AS IN THE PAST, SO THAT IT CAN DEFEND ITS INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

Q: ARE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE YUGOSLAVS ON THIS CONTINUING?

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A: THERE WILL BE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE YUGOSLAVS.
A YUGOSLAV TEAM IS CURRENTLY VISITING SMALL ARMS PLANTS
IN THIS COUNTRY. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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